

3. Promote research which increases understanding of the species and its fishery
4. Promote harmonious use of the resource among user groups

Another objective (Promote environmental standards necessary to maximize natural production of the species.) was included in seven plans. None of the other objectives were included in more than four plans.

Based on the above review of existing management plan objectives, the following general objectives are established for management of North Carolina's economically important coastal fisheries:

1. Maintain spawning stocks sufficient to minimize possible recruitment failure
2. Collect biological, economic, and social information necessary to monitor the stocks and assess condition of the stocks and fisheries
3. Promote research necessary to fill identified gaps in knowledge needed to make decisions concerning the stocks and fisheries
4. Promote environmental standards necessary to maintain the stocks and their dependent fisheries
5. Promote harmonious use of the fisheries resources among the various user groups
6. Conduct research, promulgate and enforce regulations, and take other steps (such as stocking) to promote rebuilding of depressed stocks
7. Promote actions, such as habitat modification, which contribute to maintenance and improvement in the status of stressed stocks.

The first five objectives pertain to all economically important species while objectives #6 and #7 only apply to certain species (Table 2).

#### NEEDED FISHERY DATA

It is critical that adequate fishery-dependent data (data collected from the fisheries harvests), as well as fishery-independent data (data collected by sampling the stock directly), be available to fisheries resource managers. These data are needed so that decision makers can take into account the condition of the fish stocks and the potential effect on these stocks of actions being contemplated. For the purposes of this report, needed data are defined as the data needed to complete stock assessments. For assessment of stocks which reside entirely in North Carolina, the data needed include all the data identified below. For stocks which reside in an area greater than North Carolina, the data needed only includes information relevant to the period in which the stock is in North Carolina. Although important to